

COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on July 3, 2007. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-46 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant has: 1) amended claims 1, 19 and 37; 2) not canceled any claims; and, 3) not added claims. As such claims 1-46 remain pending.

In the 7/3/07 Office Action, the Examiner failed to address each and every claim. Specifically, the Examiner's Action is silent with respect to claims 3-5, 7-13 and 39-41. Not knowing if the Examiner has decided to consider these claims allowable, the Applicant has written the present response as if the Examiner has rejected all claims.

35 USC § 101 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 as being directed to non statutory subject matter because the Examiner construed the claim to cover propagating signals. See, Examiner's Office Action, mailed 7/3/07, p. 2. The Applicant has herewith amended the preamble of the claim 19 to recite that the claimed program code is stored. The Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendment made to

claim 19, claim 19 can not be deemed to cover propagating signals and therefore is patentable according to the Examiner's definition of patentable subject matter.

35 USC § 102 Rejections.

Independent claims 1, 19 and 37 stand rejected as being anticipated by US Pat. App. Pub. No. 2004/0123279 (hereinafter, "Boykin"). The Applicant commends the Examiner for his discovery of the pertinent Boykin reference. However, after carefully scrutinizing the Boykin reference against the Applicant's claims, the Applicant believes the Applicant's claims do not require amendment in view of the Boykin reference. Each of the Applicant's independent claims recite (emphasis added):

receiving from a classfile registration information comprising a class name and different method names for more than one of said class's methods, each of said methods being modified with at least one additional byte code instruction to cause, for its respective method, a plug-in module's handler method to provide output function treatment for said respective method; and,
referring to a plug-in pattern to determine which of a plurality of plug-in modules are appropriate for each of said methods, said plug-in pattern listing for each of said plug-in modules those of said methods that are to be handled with its corresponding output function treatment

The Applicant respectfully submits that that Boykin fails to disclose at least the emphasized claim language above.

As the Applicant understands the Boykin reference, the Boykin reference discloses a system in which a software developer, pre-runtime, defines "locations" within the program code where additional bytecode instructions are to be inserted during runtime when the classfile is loaded. These locations, as the Applicant

understands them, may be defined by a method name (or constructor name) and the classfile to which the method (constructor) belongs. These locations are then recorded in a registry. During runtime, in order to instrument a classfile with additional bytecode instructions, the classfile passes some identifier of only itself to the registry. In response, the registry checks to see if any locations are to be instrumented for the classfile that has just identified itself, and, if so, triggers the instrumentation of the classfile at the appropriate locations.

The following citations from Boykin demonstrate the accuracy of the above paragraph (additional emphasis being added).

"[T]he present invention comprises the technique of injecting probe hooks into code at runtime." Boykin, para. [0034]

"Hooks are directly injected into the class files at class-load time." Boykin, para. [0033]

"The user . . . specifies within the probe registry the Java elements that need to be instrumented . . . , i.e., the probe locations." Boykin, para. [0048].

"[E]ach probe is associated with a location in an application, e.g., a specific method within a specific class. The probes along with the associated locations are registered in a registry. . . At class load time, an injector determines whether a loaded class has any instrumentation locations as predetermined by information in the registry." Boykin, Abstract.

"During the class load process, the class loader provides an indication, e.g., class load event notification 408, to injector 410, which then injects hooks into the classes." Boykin, para. [0045].

"Injector 410 can determine whether to inject a hook into a recently loaded class by querying the probe registry 416, e.g., by using an identifier of the recently loaded class, which may be provided to injector 410 through class load event notification 408 . . . If the registry has at least one location for the recently loaded class, the injector proceeds to injector or embed at least one hook at an indicated method or constructor. If the registry lacks a location for the recently loaded class, then the injector does not modify the original class file . . ." Boykin, para. [0046].

When the injector is notified that a new Java class is being loaded (step 702), it queries the registry to determine whether the newly loaded class needs to be instrumented, the injector then queries which methods, constructors, and fields within that class need to be instrumented (step 706). The injector then injects the hooks at the specified locations (step 708), thereby completing the process in the probe injection phase . . ." Boykin, para. [0050].

Viewing the Boykin reference in a light most favorable to the Examiner's position, and without admitting to as much, the registry (206/416) of Boykin corresponds to the Applicant's claimed "plug-in pattern" and the injector (216/410) of Boykin corresponds to a "dispatcher" described in the Applicant's specification that receives the notification event of a classfile. See, e.g., Applicant's specification, Figs. 17, 18, paras. [0143] - [0147]; [0153]. Briefly describing the subject matter concerning Figs. 17 and 18 of the Applicant's specification, the Applicant's specification describes a process where a classfile that has already been modified passes both classfile identity and method name information to the dispatcher.

Thus, the Applicant's claims are distinctive from Boykin for at least two reasons. First, whereas Boykin discloses that in order to trigger a look-up into the registry the identity of only a classfile is presented to the injector, by contrast, the Applicant's claims indicate that classfile identity and method names are presented [e.g., to a dispatcher]. Second, whereas Boykin discloses that the classfile is not yet modified when the classfile identity is passed to the injector, by contrast, the Applicant's claims indicate that the classfile is already modified when the classfile identity (and method names) are presented [e.g., to a dispatcher]. Therefore, the Applicant's claims are not anticipated by the Boykin reference.

Because the Applicant has demonstrated the patentability of all pending independent claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable. The Applicant's silence with respect to the dependent claims should not be construed as an admission by the Applicant that the Applicant is complicit with the Examiner's rejection of these claims. Because the Applicant has demonstrated the patentability of the independent claims, the Applicant need not substantively address the theories of rejection applied to the dependent claims. Moreover, where the Applicant has failed to address a specific independent claim element alleged by the Examiner to be covered by prior art, such failure should not be viewed as an admission by the Applicant that the Applicant accepts or agrees with the Examiner's reasoning.

In the further interests of efficiency, the Applicant reserves the right under MPEP 2144.03.C to cause the Examiner to find in the prior art subject matter to which the Examiner has taken Official Notice at a later time in the prosecution of the present case when the subject matter of such prior art is actually at issue.

REMARKS

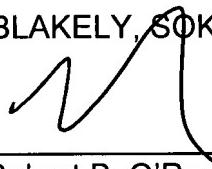
If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated:

8/23/07



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